2/19/70

AUTOPSY MEASUREMENTS OF JFK BACK WOUND:

To ascertain the precise location defined by the autopsy measurements, the following test was conducted.

The official autopsy report locates the back wound as 14cm (5½ inches) below the right mastoid process and 14 cm. from the right acromion process. The Panel report says it was 15cm from the latter point and 5cm (2 inches) from the midline of the body.

The test subject (my father) very closely approximates the physical nature of John Kennedy. Subject is 70 inches tall; JFK was 72½ inches tall. Both weighX 170 pounds, and both have the smae general build, particularly in the upper XXXX thoractic region.

Subject was placed on his stomach with arms down at side and face turned toward the right. To accomadate for any variences resulting in the slight height differences, the distance measured below Subject's mastoid was only 13 to 13.5 cm. On the subject, 13 to 13.5 cm. defined a line in the upper to middle back region on the level of the 2nd to 4th rib, or the corresponding thorastic vertebra. It was extremely difficult to measure the proper distance from the acromion since its position varied very greatly with minor changes in position. In the photographs prepared, the wound depicted is therefore erroneously placed too far right. It would in all likelyhood have been about 1 or 2cm. closer to the midline on the actual body of the President. Measurements were also taken with the body in this same position, having the arms extended over the head in a more casual position. This would raise the location of a wound 13 to 13.5 cm. below the mastoid by no more than 1.5 cm. However, there is no way of knowing the exact position of the arms during the autopsy. Either way, there is no great variation, and the area defined by the measurement is unmistakable.

The subject then sat down and turned his head somewhat to the right. Again, 13.5 cm. below the mastoid was measured. In this position, the resulting area was 7.5cm. higher than the one measured in a prone position. This spot was marked with an "X" (the other was marked with a dark circle). When the subject once again resumed a prone position, the X was found to be some 9cm. below the mastoid. Photographs of all of this are prepared.

The subject was once again seatedX and photographed to show the location of the wound defined in the autopsy report on a sitting body. From this part of the test, it was more than obvious that the wound in back was substantially below any area in front above the supersternal notch. A bullet passing between these two areas would undoubtedly be travelling upward.

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